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Catgut (both plain and chromicized) and kangaroo-gut come prepared in sterile tubes, but one-half hour's boiling does not injure them, and the process makes one chance less of infection.

Needles of proper sizes and shapes, according to the operation, are run into towels and boiled with the instruments. In many ways it is better to have the needles and ligatures sterilized separately, and the sutures can be threaded easily as they are required. "Intestinal sutures" (which are ordinary number nine sewing-needles threaded with fine silk) and "carriers" (which are threaded with coarse silk doubled to form a loop) are prepared beforehand.

A few large safety-pins should be boiled with the instruments, and may be used to secure sterile sheets and towels which surround the field of operation. Silver wire, if needed, may be boiled with the instruments.

Rubber gloves are tied together in pairs with pieces of cotton bandage on which is marked the wearer's name. A few cots should be placed with them in a towel, to be used in case a glove-finger becomes punctured. These should be boiled three minutes. Rubber tubing which may be used for salt-solution irrigation should also be sterilized by boiling.

To have all these things ready before the operation requires careful planning, as one sterilizer frequently does duty for everything except the sterile goods, which are done by the dry process.

The operating-room nurse is responsible for every detail of the preparation, including the careful instruction of her assistant nurse. If all has been well done, it will prevent awkwardness and delay during the progress of the operation.

(To be continued.)

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## **SULPHUR AS A PREVENTIVE OF MOSQUITO BITES**

ONE of our readers informs us that, having seen a statement in some English medical journal to the effect that sulphur, taken internally, would protect a person against flea-bites, it occurred to him to try it as a preventive of mosquito bites. Accordingly, he began taking effervescent tablets of tartar-lithine and sulphur, four daily. He provided himself with several lively mosquitoes, and having put them into a wide-mouthed bottle, inverted the bottle and pressed its mouth upon his bare arm. The mosquitoes settled on his skin, but showed no inclination to bite him. If this gentleman's experience should be borne out by further trials, it might be well for persons who are particularly sensitive to mosquito bites to take a course of sulphur during the mosquito season, especially in view of the growing opinion that the mosquito is the common vehicle of malaria.—*New York Medical Journal*.